

had been completely routed, and was being in scattered columns, pursued by our cavalry.

"At 4 o'clock aeroplanes reported them to be eight miles southwest of Agaña, and still being pursued."

#### FRENCH FAIL IN ATTEMPTS TO RECAPTURE DOUAMONT

BERLIN, February 27 (via London).—Five determined attempts made by French troops to recapture the German Fort de Douaumont, one of the outlying Verdun fortifications, were repulsed yesterday with sanguinary losses, according to the official statement issued today by the German headquarters staff. German troops, it was asserted, had stormed the fortified works of Hartmann, as well as the town of Champs-Élysée and the Cote-de-Talou. The number of unaccounted Frenchmen taken prisoner, it was added, totaled 15,000.

On various portions of the western front there have been intense artillery and mortar battles since the statement, and south of Ypres a British attack was repulsed.

"On the heights to the right of the Meuse the French attempted by attacks, repeated five times with fresh troops, to reconquer the fortified works of Douaumont. They were repulsed with sanguinary losses," the statement continues.

"To the west of the fort our troops have taken Champs-Élysée, the Cote-de-Talou and have advanced as far as Nave, on the southern border of the woods northeast of Bras."

"To the east of the fort we took by storm the extended fortified works of Hartmann."

"In the Woëvre plain, vigorous fighting is taking place on the German front, the battles extending as far as the Cote Lorraine."

"According to information at present in hand, the number of unaccounted prisoners amounts to nearly 15,000."

"In Flanders our aeroplanes squadrons reported their attacks on the camp of the enemy troops."

"A bomb attack on Metz by enemy aviators resulted in the injury or death of eight civilians and seven soldiers. Several houses were damaged."

"In the neighborhood of the fortress a French aeroplane was brought down in aerial battle and by the bombardment of anti-aerial guns. The occupants of the machine included two Germans, who were captured."

"Aerial theater: There is nothing to report."

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#### BURAZZO IS OCCUPIED

VIENNA, February 27 (via London).—Austro-Hungarian troops occupied the Italian port of Burazzo this morning, according to an official announcement issued today.

#### KAISER PREPARED TO SACRIFICE 200,000 MEN

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.) PARIS, February 27.—The most recent information here depicts the battle of Verdun as raging without the slightest lull throughout the day, the Germans launching frenzied attacks against the French lines, backed up by the heavy guns without regard to their own losses.

"The principal attacks against the Verdun positions were still being carried out in the Third, Fifth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh German Army zones," which were held by the Kaiser's army, which were held by the Kaiser's army, which were held by the Kaiser's army.

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North of Verdun the French troops were able to re-enforce their positions last night, said the War Office, but there was no change upon the front of attack.

"The statement added: 'To the east of the Meuse, where the snow fell in abundance, no new attack by the enemy was reported up to the close of yesterday, nor upon the Cote-de-Talou nor upon the Cote-de-Poivre.'

"A strong German attack launched in the region of the Hartmann farm, east of the Cote-de-Poivre, was broken down by our artillery and machine gun fire and by our counterattacks."

"Another attack, no less violent, in the region of the woods of Hartmann, east of Douaumont, had no more success."

"In the Woëvre the orderly retirement of our advanced posts was effected without the least interference from the enemy. To the west of the Meuse no infantry action took place."

"In the Vosges, after artillery preparation, the enemy at nightfall yesterday attempted a long attack on a front of two kilometers at the foot of Col de la Vallée in the Valley of the Plaine. The attack was completely checked."

"This morning action by our batteries against the retreating depots of the enemy at Vœuxville, north of Munster, gave good results."

"In the Woëvre plain, vigorous fighting is taking place on the German front, the battles extending as far as the Cote Lorraine."

"According to information at present in hand, the number of unaccounted prisoners amounts to nearly 15,000."

"In Flanders our aeroplanes squadrons reported their attacks on the camp of the enemy troops."

"A bomb attack on Metz by enemy aviators resulted in the injury or death of eight civilians and seven soldiers. Several houses were damaged."

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"Aerial theater: There is nothing to report."

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#### FRENCH CLOSELY PRESSING GERMANS AROUND DOUAMONT

PARIS, February 27.—Except around Fort Douaumont, the French War Office yesterday said, the German attacks to the north of Verdun, to the east and west of the Douaumont position, the French troops are closely pressing the German detachments which were able to gain a footing in those sections, and which the War Office further reports, are maintaining themselves with difficulty.

"The French deny that the Germans have occupied the Cote-de-Talou, between Senons and Rheims, and that they have been carried on the enemy works in front of Verzel and to the east of Troyon," says the War Office statement, and continues:

"In the region to the north of Verdun, following the violent actions of the preceding days, there has been some abatement in the efforts of the enemy in the course of the day, except between the heights of Douaumont and the attack to the north of the village of Vaux where a strong attack carried out against our positions was repulsed."

"To the east and west of the position of Douaumont, the slopes of which are covered with German bodies, our troops are pressing closely the enemy detachments which were able to gain a foothold there and who are maintaining themselves with difficulty."

"According to the latest report, Cote-de-Talou, rendered untenable as well for us as for the enemy by the bombardment of the two batteries, is not occupied by any of the adversary forces."

"In the Woëvre the enemy has come in contact with our advanced posts in the direction of Blangien and Morainville, where their efforts to debouch toward Hill 255 failed."

"In the Vosges, there was an artillery duel at Hartmann-Wœrkopf. We took under our fire and dispersed an enemy detachment in the region of Senons."

"The Belgian official communication reports quietude along the Belgian front."

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## INDEPENDENT SHIPPERS EXCLUDED FROM LINES

Charge Against Petroleum Pipe-Line Companies of Mid-Continent Field.

### SPECIAL REPORT TO SENATE

Federal Trade Commission Concludes Investigation Into Business—Facts Developed of Vital Importance to Entire Country.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 27.—A charge that petroleum pipe-line companies of the midcontinent field, through high tariffs and unreasonable shipping requirements, have excluded independent shippers from their lines was made today by the Federal Trade Commission in its report to the Senate on a special investigation of the business.

"If the five systems that control the midcontinent pipe lines charged their own shippers for carrying oil at the rate they offer to carry it for the independent shippers, the report declares, their annual net earnings should show a 41.5 per cent profit on their pipe-line investments. As it is, they are declared to earn more than 19 per cent."

The investigation was ordered by the last Congress, which later directed the Federal Trade Commission to inquire into the matter. To conduct the inquiry, the Trade Commission designated its work to the midcontinent field, while the Commerce Commission turned its attention to systems operating in the East.

The commission summarizes its findings in this language: "The dominant position of the midcontinent field makes the facts developed in this report of vital importance to the entire country."

"Fixed investment in pipe lines is extensive, and consequently the cost of the actual cost of such property is high. The cost of construction in the midcontinent field has followed, instead of preceded, crude oil production, and such investment is comparatively secure."

"There is a large difference between the cost of pipe-line transportation, which is very low, and pipe-line tariff, which the independent shippers cannot use, because their rates are still higher."

"The pipe-line companies require large minimum shipments, which makes it impracticable for small producers or refiners to ship crude oil by pipe line."

"The price of crude oil delivered at the refineries is to a large extent made up of cost of transportation charge."

"The cost of pipe-line construction is so great that small concerns cannot build lines from the midcontinent field to the large consuming and distributing markets."

"Lower pipe-line rates and smaller minimum shipments are necessary to enable small concerns to compete with large refineries affiliated with pipe-line companies."

"Reasonable and equitable conditions of shipment by pipe line would tend to a greater equality in the prices of midcontinent and Appalachian crude oil, and consequently, the prices of the refined products which are made from them would tend to be more equal in different markets of the United States."

Whether the general level of prices of refined products would be thereby reduced or kept at a lower level would depend chiefly upon the movement of the prices of crude oil. Such prices, under conditions of free competition in purchase and sale, would be determined by supply and demand. Competition would be promoted, however, and more equitable conditions established by the removal of these artificial disadvantages imposed on the midcontinent field.

BERLIN STANDS BY ORDERS TO SINK ALL ARMED SHIPS

(Continued from First Page.) not more than thirty-five to forty degrees.

"The attitude of the United States probably will depend on the contents of the appendices to the German memorandum, which are claimed to contain copies of alleged confidential instructions to masters of British merchantmen. State Department officials have been awaiting the arrival of these appendices with much interest."

The contention of the Berlin government is represented as being that all defensively armed British merchantmen are prepared and instructed not only to resist, but to attack. Consequently it is argued, the new policy toward armed ships amounts with international law, the German view being that if the British merchant ships have been declared to violate and so violate the law, they are justified in taking measures in retaliation."

It is understood that the Austro-Hungarian embassy here has received advice somewhat similar to those sent from Berlin to Count von Bernstorff. Because virtually all Italian ships are armed, although those leaving American ports do so under pledge that they will not use their guns when being at war with Italy, has no particular interest in Italian ships."

The State Department holds to the position that an unarmed ship and a ship armed for defensive purposes are in essentially the same class and must be treated accordingly. Officials of the department have indicated a willingness to discuss with the Central European powers the question of what may properly be considered defensive armament, and there have been intimations that the government was considering revising its instructions to port authorities in this regard.

FOR BELGIAN RELIEF WORK

NEW YORK, February 27.—Donations of \$2,862 pounds of cloth were received last week for relief work in Belgium. The commission estimates that the clothing has been purchased for about \$1,450. The supply of clothing is entirely inadequate to meet its needs.

VARIATION IN NET EARNINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLE

"The significance of pipe-line rates is best appreciated by showing the rate of return on investment which would be obtained if all the oil shipped by the independent shippers, excluding the oil which was charged the tariff rates at which the pipe line offers to take the oil of other shippers. Taking all these five

pipe lines together, the net investment aggregated in 1913 \$43,857,000; the cost of transportation by pipe line, including depreciation on investment, \$10,624,000, and the gross receipts which would have been obtained if tariff rates had been charged on all the oil carried, \$28,837,000. On this basis the earnings would have been \$18,213,000, and the rate of return on the net investment, 41.5 per cent.

"The variation in net earnings for the five different systems would have been considerable ranging from 14 to 62 per cent."

The report goes into minimum quantity requirements of the pipe lines, which, it charges, excludes smaller concerns.

"Conditions made regarding the minimum quantity of oil which will be accepted for shipment," it says, "are such that the small oil producer or refiner is virtually excluded from using this method of transportation. The Federal Pipe Line Company makes the minimum requirement 100,000 barrels; certain others require at least 25,000. It is evident, therefore, that a minimum requirement of 100,000 barrels is not necessary. But a minimum requirement of 25,000 would appear to be excessive."

"The really difficult problem for pipe lines acting as common carriers would appear to arise when the shipments of oil exceed the capacity of the line and in that case some equitable rule would have to be determined for apportioning shipments. Furthermore, there is no opportunity to get cheaper transportation by other means, because the rail rates are higher still."

TO MAKE PIPE LINES COMMON CARRIERS IN FACT

The report concludes: "The conclusion is evident that lower rates and equitable shipping requirements by pipe line are necessary in order to make pipe lines common carriers in fact as well as in law, and that the prosperity and perhaps even the existence of many small concerns are dependent upon reasonable and equitable shipping conditions."

"Lower pipe-line rates and reasonable shipping requirements would enable many small producers and refiners to transport crude oil from the midcontinent field by pipe line, who are now unable to do so, and would, therefore, tend to equalize competition in the sale of crude oil, and increase the prosperity of the midcontinent field."

"The removal of these artificial disadvantages would tend to a greater equality in the prices of midcontinent and Appalachian crude oil, and consequently, the prices of the refined products which are made from them would tend to be more equal in different markets of the United States."

Whether the general level of prices of refined products would be thereby reduced or kept at a lower level would depend chiefly upon the movement of the prices of crude oil. Such prices, under conditions of free competition in purchase and sale, would be determined by supply and demand. Competition would be promoted, however, and more equitable conditions established by the removal of these artificial disadvantages imposed on the midcontinent field."

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## BUSINESS IN CONGRESS BACK IN REGULAR ORDER

Work Demoralized Last Week by Flurry Over International Affairs.

### SITUATION NOW IN CONTROL

Progress Being Made on Several Appropriation Bills, but Leaders Are Again Complaining Over Delay in Other Measures.

WASHINGTON, February 27.—Legislative business is to be resumed in regular order at the Capitol this week after the recent flurry over international affairs that demoralized the work of Congress. In both houses administration leaders have in control the threatened revolt against the President on the armed-ships issue, and no further outburst is expected, unless there should be a development apparently leading toward war.

Leaders of the agitation for action to warn Americans off belligerent merchantmen carrying arms admit there is no chance to get legislation on the subject. There is no parliamentary opportunity for the matter to get before the House at this time, and the Senate continues to process the Shields water-power bill under discussion in order to prevent discussion of foreign affairs on the floor.

Conservation advocates in the Senate plan to throw their combined strength against the Shields bill to provide for leasing the water-power sites on navigable waters to private interests. Tomorrow Senator Hastings, of Iowa, will propose a substitute to the Shields bill which would safeguard the public interest and prevent consolidation of water-power facilities. Senator Norris, of Nebraska, charged in the Senate on Saturday that the strongest lobby here in the interest of the Shields bill, and that it is composed of representatives of the "water-power trust," which has its headquarters in Wall Street."

As soon as an opportunity is offered, Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, will make an effort to have passed his resolution providing for an inquiry into the aviation service of the army, against which he has filed serious charges of inefficiency. The Arkansas Senator declared tonight he would insist upon a vote within a few days.

Progress is being made on general appropriation bills, but leaders in both houses are again complaining over delay in other measures, and another speeding-up order has been sent out along the line. The Judiciary Subcommittee of the Senate hopes to conclude its hearing this week on the fitness of Louis D. Brandeis for the Supreme Court. Part of the time of the Senate, it is expected, will be given to the consideration of the bill providing for the Haitian financial protectorate.

IMMIGRATION BILL DEBATE AGAIN IS POSTPONED

Consideration of the post-office appropriation bill will be continued in the House, and its disposition will be the legislative appropriation bill taken up. The immigration bill debate has been postponed, and it may not be reached before next week.

The Ways and Means Committee will report the free-sugar bill to-morrow, but the date it will be discussed on the floor is indefinite. It will be thrashed out before the free-sugar bill is taken up.

Busy days are ahead for the Ways and Means Committee. Reporting of the free-sugar bill and submission of reports on proposed dye-stuff legislation to President Wilson will mark its first real work of the year, aside from reporting the stamp-tax bill, but soon the committee will be carrying the big burden of drafting preparedness revision plan now are generally known, and the skeleton work of the naval program soon will be ready, so the committee has begun to form concrete ideas of what its task will be.

DEATHS IN VIRGINIA

Miss Virginia C. Worsham. Miss Virginia C. Worsham died yesterday afternoon at 3:25 o'clock at the home of her mother, O. B. Budd, 116 North Thirty-third Street. The funeral will be conducted in the home to-morrow morning at 10:30 o'clock.

Mrs. George W. Carter. Mrs. George W. Carter died yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock at her home, 900 North Twenty-fifth Street. She was seventy-two years of age. She leaves, besides her husband, three

children, Mrs. George W. Carter, Mrs. George W. Carter, Mrs. George W. Carter.

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